Chardham Yatra Circuit

91. SHRI R.P GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a comprehensive plan to improve the infrastructure for tourism around the "Chardham Yatra Circuit" which includes Gangotri, Yamnotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath shrines;

(b) if so, the details thereof including an outline of the phased programme for development of the Circuit; and

(c) the steps being taken to conserve the cultural heritage and environment along the Chardham area?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

For the present, based on the field visits the following items have been identified for being taken up:—

1. Setting up of "Rafter/Adventure" resort along the water-front of the river Ganga, Alaknanda and Mandakini etc.
2. Scientific sewerages system at Badrinath town.
3. Construction of suspension bridge at Dev Prayag.
4. Development of Ghats and sites at Srinagar.
5. Development of simple and smooth walkway along the river-bank at Rudraprayag.
6. Setting up of a Transport Centre at Karnaprayag.
7. Renovation of Tourist Centre at Pipalkoti.
8. Development of Tourist Complexes at Josjiimath.
9. Development and landscaping of Pandukeshwar.
10. Development of Parking space at Govind Ghat.
11. Development of two parallel pathways from Govind Ghat to the Valley of Flowers/Hemkunt for pedestrians and other for mules and setting up of shops en-route on the pattern of Vaishno Devi.

12. Badrinath.

(i) The entire area in front of the temple to be cleaned up and landscaped.

(ii) Elegant lighting arrangement to be made in the temple complex as well as on the bridges and the landscaped portion.

(iii) Another bridge to be constructed for which financial sanction has been issued separately by the State Government out of the funds made available by the XI Finance Commission. With the construction of the second bridge, a proper circulation plan to be drawn up and all the shops which are currently located on the road in front of the temple could be relocated in the nearby area on Ajanta pattern.

(iv) A well planned parking space would be created for the buses as well as for the vehicles at appoint a little ahead of Badrish Ekta Van.

(v) In the building which is being wrongly constructed along the main temple and which cannot now be demolished, a proper Information-cum-Interpretation Centre, incorporating the concept of March of Indian Civilization, to be set up.

(vi) The hot water kunds to be re-planned and effectively cleaned and made more elegant.

(vii) A by-pass road to be constructed connecting it with the mana village.

Promotion of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh

†92. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned to Government of Himachal Pradesh for promoting tourism;

(b) the action taken by Government of upliftment of Durga Hotkoti Temple situated in Shimla district and which is quite important from the point of view of tourism; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.